

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) A device for laser drilling and laser erosion comprising:
a laser for generating a laser beam acting upon a point of action on a workpiece;

[[and]]

a device for generating an electric field in an area of the point of action, wherein the device for generating the electric field includes an electrode and a current-voltage source, the electrode being situated at a distance from the point of action, the current-voltage source being interconnected between an electrically conductive workpiece and the electrode in such a way that the electric field is applied between the workpiece and the electrode, and wherein the workpiece and the electrode are interconnected in such a way that the workpiece is positively charged and the electrode is negatively charged.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim ~~9~~¹⁰, wherein the current-voltage source is a direct current-voltage source.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 9, wherein a magnetic field is applied in an area of the point of action on the workpiece.

14. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim ~~9~~¹⁰, further comprising an electric measuring device for measuring a current flowing between the workpiece and the electrode.

15. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 940, wherein the current-voltage source generates a high-frequency alternating voltage, and further comprising a measuring device for measuring a capacitive resistance between the workpiece and the electrode.

16. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 940, wherein the electrode has a one-piece design and has at least one opening through which the laser beam passes without obstruction.